United Nations A/65/726–S/2011/68

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
14 February 2011

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 38
The situation in Afghanistan

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose herewith the Joint Declaration by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, and the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai, following the Russian-Afghan summit talks held in Moscow on 20 and 21 January 2011 (see annex).

We would like to request your kind assistance in having the contents of the present letter as well as the Joint Declaration circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 38, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zahir **Tanin**
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint Declaration by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, and the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai

At the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Hamid Karzai, paid an official visit to the Russian Federation on 20 and 21 January 2011.

During the visit, the two sides discussed in detail the status of bilateral cooperation and prospects for its development as well as ways of tackling regional and international challenges.

The Presidents noted the historically friendly nature of Russian-Afghan relations, based on a strong foundation of mutual respect, and called for the dynamic development of bilateral ties in the areas of trade, economic cooperation, science, culture and education as well as parliamentary dialogue and contacts between representatives of civil society and business.

The Russian side confirmed its commitment to the restoration of Afghanistan as a stable, independent and prosperous State free from such challenges to the region as terrorism and drug-related crime. It expressed its willingness to continue providing multifaceted assistance to achieve stability and sustainable economic development in Afghanistan.

The Russian Federation confirmed its support for the Kabul process and the decisions of the historic Kabul Conference, including the transfer of full responsibility for security in the country to the Afghan authorities.

The Presidents of the two countries expressed serious concern at the persistent threats in the region relating to terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime. They noted the importance of increasing bilateral and multilateral cooperation to counter those threats, including through opportunities available within regional and international organizations, among them the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The Heads of State exchanged views on the implementation of the Plan of Action of the SCO member States and Afghanistan on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, adopted at the Special Conference on Afghanistan held under the aegis of SCO in Moscow on 27 March 2009.

Characterizing drug-related crime as a serious threat to international peace and stability, the Presidents of the two countries noted that it was a priority to engage in joint efforts to combat such crime in an integrated manner throughout the chain of illicit drug trafficking, ranging from crop eradication to countering the production, smuggling and consumption of drugs as well as the supply of precursors. In that context, they underscored the importance of the preventive counter-narcotics operation Channel, in which Afghanistan had been invited to participate as an

observer. The Afghan side expressed gratitude to the Russian Federation for its assistance in combating the drug threat, including the training of counter-narcotics police officers for Afghanistan.

The Presidents welcomed the signing of an intergovernmental trade and economic cooperation agreement as an important step in the development of economic cooperation between the two countries.

They expressed approval and support for the interest shown by Russian business circles in cooperating with the Afghan Government and business community to restore and reconstruct facilities of key importance to Afghanistan in the areas of transport, energy, natural resource management and urban development.

The Heads of State stressed the importance of developing mutually beneficial economic cooperation between the Russian Federation and Afghanistan. In that connection, the Russian side expressed its willingness to support the development and subsequent implementation of the following priority projects for Afghanistan: the restoration and reconstruction of the Kabul building plant, the Nangarhar irrigation canal, the nitrogen fertilizer plant in Mazar-i-Sharif, the Salang Tunnel and the Kabul Technical University; the construction and equipping of auto mechanic trade schools in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif and Khost Province; the restoration of the Kabul grain elevator and the construction of new elevators in various provinces; the construction of the Sorubi-2 hydroelectric plant in Kabul Province and hydropower facilities and an electric power station in Kelagay, Baghlan Province; and the construction and equipping of a customs terminal in Hairaton.

The two sides expressed interest in strengthening regional economic cooperation, including through the implementation of important projects in the rail transport and energy sectors, particularly the CASA-1000 project for a system to transmit electricity from Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan and the project for the construction of a Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline, and called for support for the Russian Federation's participation in those projects in agreement with the other parties concerned.

Dmitry Medvedev gratefully accepted Hamid Karzai's invitation to visit Afghanistan.

20 January 2011